

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, the claims have been amended for clarity.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-10, 16-21, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,954,229 to Otala in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0104841 to Yamamoto. The Examiner has further rejected claims 6, 11-15 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otala in view of Yamamoto, and further in view of Official Notice.

The Otala patent discloses storing image data to digital cameras, in which a digital data file representing a digital still photograph and having "at least one of a time and location stamp", may be generated or inputted, and the digital still photograph may then be displayed.

The Yamamoto publication discloses a method for displaying time-stamp associated and weighted data and mobile station using the same, in which the background field around indicia describing a data file (or the indicia itself) is varied in dependence on, e.g., the time-stamp associated with the data file.

The Examiner has indicated that the claim limitation "ambient alteration means, coupled to said digital still photograph rendering means, for altering an ambient characteristic in an area proximate to said display based on at least one of the time and

location stamps" is disclosed by Yamamoto at paragraphs [0024] and [0050] "for the purpose of intuitively display image data".

Applicants submit that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, the noted sections of Yamamoto state:

"[0024] The weight calculating unit 44 calculates a weight W for each of the displayed mail data in accordance with a difference between the data and time of each of the displayed mail address and the current data and time of the timer 2. In this case, the larger the difference, the larger the weight W."

and

"[0050] In the above-described embodiment, although the background brightness of display data is changed in accordance with the weight W thereof, the background color of display data can be changed in accordance with the weight W. Also, the thickness degree of characters of display data can be changed in accordance with the weight W thereof as shown in FIG. 7. Further, the size of characters of display data can be changed in accordance with the weight W as shown in FIG. 8. Further, the inclination degree of characters of display data can be changed in accordance with the weight W thereof. Further, two or more of the background brightness, the background color, the thickness degree, the size and the inclination degree can be changed in accordance with the weight W. In any display mode, the latest data is most visibly displayed."

It should be clear from the above that Yamamoto weights the mail data based on the time-stamp, and then modifies the displaying of the mail data based on the weighting. However, Applicants stress that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Yamamoto of "ambient alteration means, coupled to said digital still photograph rendering means, for altering an ambient characteristic in an area proximate to said display based on at least one of the time and location stamps". In particular, the term

"ambient characteristic" is defined in the specification on page 7, lines 10-20, where it is stated "For purposes of this disclosure, an ambient characteristic is anything that can be viewed or otherwise sensed in an area proximate to the display 302."

Applicants therefore submit that changes to the displayed image itself are not changes to an ambient characteristic "in an area proximate to said display".

Claim 7 includes the limitation "wherein the ambient alteration means comprises a lighting system, and the ambient characteristic comprises an ambient lighting as effected by said lighting system in an area proximate the display". The Examiner indicates that this is disclosed by Yamamoto and cites the above paragraphs.

Applicants submit that it should be apparent that Yamamoto neither discloses nor suggests a lighting system for effecting an ambient lighting in an area proximate the display. Rather, Yamamoto discloses varying the displayed data based on the time-stamp.

With regard to claim 6, the Examiner has used Official Notice to indicate that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide "a connector wirelessly connected to one of a network, storage device, and digital still camera" as the data input means.

With regard to claims 11-15 and 22-25, the Examiner has taken Official Notice to show that it would have been obvious to provide the at least one other display.

Applicants submit that that the at least one other display would be obvious if it were use to merely form multiple displays of the picture data of Otala. However, in the subject invention, the at least one other display is being used to effect the ambient characteristic proximate the (main) display. As an example, suppose that the digital data file has a time stamp of, for example, December 25. The ambient alteration means may then download and apply Christmas images to the at least one other display, in an attempt to provide the ambient characteristics of Christmas. Similarly, if the digital data file has a location stamp of, for example, New York City, then the ambient alteration means may download and apply New York City images to the at least one other display in an attempt to provide the ambient characteristics of New York City.

Applicants submit that this is more than merely multiple displays for Otala to display the photographic files, but rather the at least one other display enables the subject invention to adapt the ambient characteristics proximate to the display.

Applicants believe that this is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art, including any Official Notice taken by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is not rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1-27, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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